GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2920
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2000
SHORT SUPPLY OF AMMUNITIONS
HANNAN MOLLAH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for ordering import of basic howitzer ammunitions from foreign sources when Indian ordnance factories are well equipped to manufacture them;

(b) whether starving these ordnance factories of orders and not placing the orders well in advance is one of the reasons for short supply of ammunitions; and

(c) if so, whether the Government will initiate measures to ensure that these ordnance units do function at their optimum capacity and total potential in order to avoid dependence on foreign suppliers?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): The 155mm ammunition used with FH77B Howitzer Guns System is indigenously manufactured by the Ordnance Factories and its import is ordinarily not undertaken if the capacities of the Ordnance Factories and the requirement of Army match. Certain varieties of superior 155mm ammunition have recently been imported, where indigenous capability was yet to be established or where the Army's requirement of the ammunition was more than the production capacity of the Ordnance Factories. In the case of import of ammunition with superior technology, Transfer of Technology is also obtained to enable the Ordnance Factories to adopt the latest technology for subsequent indigenous production.